Statement

Financial Year	US $	Ind. Rupees
95-96	$ 672,500	Rs. 22,508,575
96-97	$1,000,000	Rs. 35,513,175
97-98	$ 541,936	Rs. 20,316,516
98-99	$ 900,000	Rs. 38,341,250
99-00	$ 900,000	Rs. 40,182,000
TOTAL:	$ 4,014,436	Rs. 156,861,516

fl3Government's reaction to coup in Fiji

557. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent coup forcibly bringing down the democratically elected Government in Fiji; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 19 May, 2000 a group of armed men under George Speight took Prime Minister Mehendra Chaudhry and several members of his Cabinet as hostage, PM Chaudhry was removed, the 1997 constitution of Fiji was abrogated and martial law declared in Fiji. On July 13, after an agreement signed earlier between the Military and Speight, the hostage including PM Chaudhry, were released.

The Government of India has called for restoration of a democratic and constitutional Government in Fiji within the framework of 1997 Constitution. We have also been working strenuously through the International Community (Commonwealth and countries like Australia, New Zealand and UK) to achieve these objectives.*